

Appln No. 09/619,553

Amdt date May 18, 2005

Reply to Office action of April 7, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested. Claims 1-22 and 43-64 are now in the application. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14-16, 18, 19, 22, 43, 45-47, 49, 50, 53, 54, 56-58, 60, 61, and 64 have been amended by this amendment, Claims 6, 44, 48, 51, 52, 55, 59, 62, and 63 having been amended by a previous amendment. No claims have been added or cancelled in this amendment, Claims 23-42 having been cancelled by the Applicants in a previous amendment not for reasons of patentability, but to expedite the allowance of the remaining claims in the application.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-22 and 43-64 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that, as to Claims 1, 12, 43 and 54, that it is unclear in the claims where the recited counting takes place. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 12, 43 and 54 to call for "a first node" and "one or more network nodes" in place of the node(s) previously mentioned. As such, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 12, 43 and 54 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 2-11 are dependent on Amended Claim 1. As such, Claims 2-11 are believed allowable based upon Amended Claim 1. Claims 13-22 are dependent on Amended Claim 12. As such, Claims 13-22 are believed allowable based upon Amended Claim 12.

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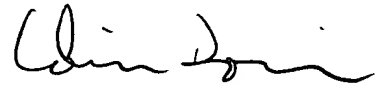
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Claims 44-53 are dependent on Claim 43. As such, Claims 44-64 are believed allowable based upon Claim 43. Claims 55-64 are dependent on Claim 54. As such, Claims 55-64 are believed allowable based upon Claim 54.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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